

Appln. No. 10/753,866
Amendment dated August 10, 2005
Reply to Office Action of July 11, 2005

Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached sheets of drawings include changes to Figs. 1-3. These sheets, which include Figs. 1-3, replace the original sheets including Figs. 1-3.

Attachment: Replacement Sheets

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Amendment

By the present amendment, the specification has been amended to correct a minor typographical error. The drawing has been amended to reflect the introductory portions of the substitute specification at page 1, lines 8 and 9, page 2, lines 23, 24 and in the Brief Description of the Drawings. The revision to the drawings comprises the addition of the legend "Prior Art" to Figs. 1, 2, and 3.

The claims have been amended to more particularly point out the inventive subject matter: namely, that the grounding of the lead wire shields is performed through a current limiting circuit that exhibits non-linear voltage-current characteristics. This clearly distinguishes the claimed subject matter over other current limiting devices such as a simple resistor.

Other amendments to the claims improve the form and language of the claims, provide structural definition to the apparatus claims and method step definition to the method claims.

Response to Requirement for Restriction

Responsive to the requirement for restriction made in the Office Action of July 11, 2005, apparatus claims 1-11 and 16-17 are elected, subject to the request for reconsideration made below.

It is respectfully requested that the requirement for restriction made in the Office Action of July 11, 2005 be reconsidered and withdrawn. In the present instance, the apparatus and method claims are generally alternative expressions of the same central feature: namely, performing grounding of the lead wire shields through a current limiting circuit exhibiting non-linear voltage-current characteristics. Both apparatus and method claims are thus seen as properly includable in the present application. While the Office Action mentions "electrical appliance surge protection", it is to be noted that both the apparatus and method claims are directed to "grounding in a system for ECG monitoring."

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Withdrawal of the requirement for restriction is, therefore, respectfully requested.

Information Disclosure Statement

This response is accompanied by an Information Disclosure Statement making of record the references cited in the parent European patent application.

Respectfully submitted,

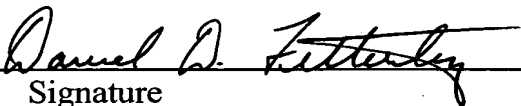
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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Mail Stop - Amendment - Fee, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on the 10th day of August, 2005.

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